EXPENDITURE.

Disbursements.—On the side of expenditure we have budgetted for the disbursement of Rs. 85,74,100 which falls short of the revised estimate by Rs. 2,95,700. The decrease, as will be seen from my explanations, is not due to any retrenchment in any of the Development Departments which receive only larger contributions in the coming year. Though there is thus a decrease as compared with the revised estimate, it exceeds, on the other hand, the budget estimate of the current year by Rs. 2,78,300 on account of the more liberal grants proposed for all Departments of public utility like the 'Medical', 'Education', 'Public Works', 'Agriculture and Panchayats', etc. The fall in expenditure as compared with the revised estimate is thus due to the fact that the large increase in the revised estimate was due to special circumstances like the visit of His Excellency the Viceroy, the exhibition of the cost of salt under a debt head, etc.

It shall now be my endeavour to explain briefly the salient features of the budget estimates of the ensuing year. In doing so, I shall try to touch only on the new schemes or items of expenditure, if any, which have gone to swell the expenditure under the various heads, leaving my official colleagues to explain the details of the provisions when their turn comes.

The new features of the '**Land Revenue**' budget for the coming year are the provisions under 'Temporary Establishment' for the opening of a Survey school for training Village Officers, for the verification of certain State boundaries and for the training of a few Tahsildars and clerks in Survey and Account work. The necessity for these provisions being obvious, it will hardly serve any purpose to expatiate on them.

Under '**Agriculture and Panchayats**' increased provision has been made for additional equipments to the laboratory. The large increase under Panchayats, the programme of expenditure under which is fixed at Rs. 2,70,877 is mainly due to the more liberal provisions made for improvement of village communications and water supply, the details of which are given as Appendix to the budget. The question of lapses in the Panchayat budgets has been discussed thread-bare in the House, and it was suggested that a separate fund may be created from the annual contribution to Village Panchayats so that the lapsed amounts might be utilised for the purpose intended. For various reasons explained at the time the Government could not accept the proposal. To minimise the difficulties pointed out and to reduce to a minimum the number of works which could not be executed in time and which could not be attended to in

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the next year for want of provision, Government have now provided for the ensuing year a lump provision of Rs. 20,000 towards the execution of works either not attended to or only partly done in the current year, and it is proposed to be stipulated that the funds thus earmarked could not be utilised for any other purpose. With the staff of Inspectors and Irrigation Overseers now appointed to help the Panchayats according to the orders on the Report of the Special Finance Committee and with the provision thus made to carry on the budgetted programme besides the works which could not be attended to in the previous year, may we not hope for the hearty co-operation of these local bodies, which should be the units of our local administration, in carrying out the regular programme in the year itself?

The decrease of Rs. 1,79,600 under **'Excise'** as compared with the revised estimate of Rs. 2,93,500 for the current year is only apparent being due to the fact that, according to the suggestions of the Special Finance Committee, the allotment for the purchase of salt which was hitherto being debited to this head is provided under 'Advances' as explained by me in the Memorandum.

Forests and Tramway.—The new system of accounts adopted for the adjustment of the Tramway freight shows that the Tramway is not, after all, working at a loss, and the increased extraction and transport of timber budgetted for under 'Forests' for which a large provision of Rs. 3,97,300 is made chiefly as compared with the revised estimate of Rs. 3,67,700, is expected to give ample work to the Tramway for the year.

Registration.— Representations have been made to the Government for the opening of a new Registry Office at Kallettumkara for the convenience of the people and owing to heavy pressure of work in the adjoining offices of Nellayi, Irinjalakkuda, etc., and a tentative provision is made therefor as the Government have not come to any decision on the point.

General Administration.—The only new feature in the head is the provision for carrying on Census Operations (Rs. 17,075). To conduct the Census an officer has already been appointed with a small staff to assist him in his preliminary work. This staff has to be considerably strengthened and enlarged during the last 4 or 5 months of the year when the Census work proper begins and hence the lump provision made therefor.

Accounts and Finance.—The provisions which may perhaps require a word of explanation are those for the Special Officer for the compilation of the Account Manuals and of the

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